

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 1, 3, 5 and 14-16, leaves claims 7-13 and 17 unchanged, cancels claim 2 and adds new claim 18. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1, 3, 5 and 7-18.

The Examiner's cooperation is respectfully request to contact Applicants' Attorney, the undersigned, by telephone so as to discuss the outstanding issues of the present application prior to examination.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8 and 14-17 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishizawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,519,598); claims 9 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishizawa in view of Brown (U.S. Patent No. 6,636,808); claims 2 and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishizawa in view of Suzuki (U.S. Patent No. 6,125,304); and claims 11 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishizawa in view Suzuki and further in view of Brown. As indicated above, claim 2 was canceled. Therefore, these rejections with respect to claim 2 are rendered moot. These rejections with respect to claims 1, 3, 5 and 7-17 are traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in clams 1, 3, 5 and 7-17 are not taught or suggested by Nishizawa, Brown or Suzuki whether taken individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

Various arguments were presented distinguishing the features of the present invention as recited in the claims and Nishizawa and Suzuki were provided in the August 21, 2003 Amendment. These arguments set forth in the August 21, 2003 Amendment are incorporated herein by reference.

As argued in the Remarks of the August 21, 2003 Amendment, the features of the present invention is that when a host computer sends a request of data transformation to a disk storage device, the disk storage device transforms data having a first data format into data having second format and stores the data having the second format within the disk storage device.

Nishizawa discloses a magnetic disk apparatus in which data is converted by a data conversion program based on receiving a data request from a client computer. According to Nishizawa, when a client computer issues the data request the magnetic disk apparatus, the magnetic disk apparatus judges whether the data conversion program is stored in this magnetic disk apparatus or not. As a result the magnetic disk apparatus converts data by use of the data conversion program which is found as shown in Fig. 6 of Nishizawa. Particularly, in Nishizawa if there is no data conversion program which fulfills a given condition, then the magnetic disk client notifies the client computer that the data conversion process cannot be performed.

However, contrary to the teachings in Nishizawa, according to the present invention, the data format transformation program is determined by a skeleton program in the host computer, which has information to determine the data format transformation program in regard to data in the disk storage device. According to the present invention, information containing address information which specifies the

location of the program in the disk storage device is provided in the host (Fig. 3, host program table 620).

Thus, according to the present invention the host computer determines the location of the data format transformation program based on the host program table, and the host computer sends a request of data transformation, which includes the address information (for example, LUN or port ID), to the located data transformation program in the disk storage device.

Therefore according to the present invention, a user of a host computer can designate any program which transforms data having a first data format into data having second data format used by another host computer.

According to Nishizawa, the magnetic disk apparatus selects the data conversion program automatically, and converts data by the selected conversion program. Hence it is possible in Nishizawa that the converted data may have a format not intended by the user.

Thus, as is quite clear from the above, Nishizawa fails to teach or suggest that the request includes information for specifying the data format transformation program, an address of source data, a size of data to be transformed and a destination address of the transform data as recited in the claims.

Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §103(a) rejection of claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8 and 14-17 as being unpatentable over Nishizawa is respectfully requested.

The above noted deficiencies of Nishizawa are not supplied by Brown or Suzuki. Therefore, combining the teachings of Nishizawa, Brown and Suzuki in the

manner suggested by the Examiner still fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims. Particularly, both Brown and Suzuki fails to teach or suggest that the request includes information for specifying the data format transformation program, an address of source, a size of data to be transformed and destination address of the transform data as recited in the claims.

Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §103(a) rejection of claims 9-13 as being unpatentable over the combination of Nishizawa with one or more of Brown and Suzuki is respectfully requested.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references utilized in the rejection of claims 1-3, 5 and 7-17.


As indicated above, the present Amendment adds new claim 18. New claim 18 depends from claim 1. Therefore, the same arguments presented above with respect to claim 1 apply as well to claim 18.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1, 3, 5 and 7-18 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1, 3, 5 and 7-18 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (520.39598X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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